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Black Hawk State Park



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At the Black Hawk State Park, the site of Black Hawk State Park, consists of three buildings, the main house, the museum and the Black Hawk State Museum, both of which are now open to the public. The main house is a two-story building, built in the early 1800s, and is now a museum. The museum is a one-story building, built in the early 1800s, and is now a museum. The Black Hawk State Museum is a one-story building, built in the early 1800s, and is now a museum.



STATE OF ILLINOIS

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BLACK HAWK STATE PARK

Black Hawk State Park consists of 207 acres of land on the south edge of Rock Island. The park borders the Rock River several miles above where the river joins the Mississippi River. The tract is well wooded and steeply rolling, and is rich in bird and plant life. The finest feature of the park, however, is the Watch Tower—a promontory 150 feet above the Rock River with a magnificent view of the river valley and surrounding country.

The natural loveliness of the site would be ample justification for its inclusion in the State Park system, but its historical heritage equals, if it does not exceed, its scenic beauty. Of the several dozen Illinois state parks set aside because of their historic import, Black Hawk State Park, is the foremost dedicated to the historic Indian.

For most of a century on this site stood the capital villages of the Sauk and Fox nation, who in their day made more history than any other group of redskins in the Mississippi valley. They made their start here with a small number about 1730, driving the Kaskaskias before them; they prospered until they had brought parts of Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri and all of Iowa under the fear of their war-whoop and fighting ability of their warriors. It was easily one of the largest Indian centers in North America.

BLACK HAWK DISAGREES

During the Revolutionary War, part of the Sauk and Fox served with the British, while others aided the Americans. In the westernmost campaign of the war, Col. John Montgomery and 350 Americans including 100 Spanish soldiers from St. Louis destroyed the great village in 1780. Various chiefs of the tribes in 1804 ceded the land on which the village stood to the United States, but Black Hawk who



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was chief of the pro-English element, refused to recognize the cession, a stand for which modern historians find much justification.

Divided again in the second war with England, the pro-British remained here and, led by Black Hawk, in 1814, defeated the Americans at Campbell's Island, nine miles northeast of the parksite and now a State Memorial; and at Credit Island, two and a half miles below and west of the park. The Campbell's Island engagement was partly on land and partly fought on water from canoes. These successes convinced Black Hawk that the Indian was supreme and would remain so for unnumbered years; but the press of white settlement, with conflict almost certain, forced Black Hawk's followers across the Mississippi River in 1831 with the promise that they would not return without permission from the whites.

Under treaty the land at Rock Island was still the Indians until sold by the United States. The frontiersman could not wait in deference to Indian sentiment. They began to occupy and improve the site of Black Hawk's village. Black Hawk at last found himself in a hopeless war against the white man.

For a time in 1832 northwestern Illinois was kept in terror by Indian raids and murders. The frontier sprang to arms and the Illinois militia and several regiments of the regular army were sent to the scene. Following several sharp skirmishes, Black Hawk was chased into the unknown wilderness of southern Wisconsin, culminating in a decisive defeat of the Indians a few miles south of Bad Axe on August 2, 1832. A few days later Black Hawk was captured, and after several months captivity during which time he was taken to Washington, D. C., he was permitted to return to his people in Iowa where he died in 1838.

The Black Hawk War, in addition to clearing the way for white settlement, brought together a number of men who later gained great distinction. In sight of the Watch Tower promontory, Abraham Lincoln, Captain of Illinois militia, was sworn into the service of the United States. Jefferson Davis, later president of the Southern Confederacy, was a lieutenant in the regular army. Zachary Taylor, then in command of the First U. S. Infantry, served with his men in the Rock River valley. Among others, less



Black Hawk
Watch Tower
Rock River



Hauberg Indian Museum and Watch Tower Inn.



Pleasant woodland trails beckon.



Watch Tower Inn Lounge.



Watch Tower Inn Dining Room.

distinguished, were Gen. Winfield Scott and Robert Anderson who was to obtain fame at Fort Sumter in 1861.

The Black Hawk War was one of the inevitable conflicts of an advancing civilization. On one side was a native race fighting for its ancestral lands; on the other, settlers and soldiers, our own forebearers, determined to banish fear of the scalping knife from their cabins and clearings. Black Hawk State Park is a memorial to all the participants.

INDIANS COME BACK

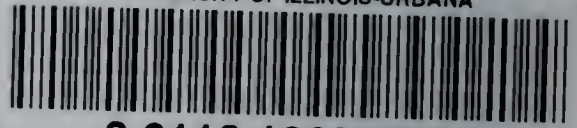
The most colorful reminder of the Indian left is the annual Pow Wow held each year at the park on the Labor Day week-end. The most unique attraction east of the Mississippi River, it is particularly successful as it fits so well the historic background of the area.

Staged in a natural bowl with a backdrop of giant trees, the State has built here an amphitheater that accommodates 5,500 people. The performers are Black Hawk's people, the Fox from Tama, Iowa, and Sauk from Oklahoma including direct blood descendents of Black Hawk.

The Pow Wow is sponsored by a council of civic and historically minded people of the Quad-Cities with John H. Hauberg as president. Dr. Hauberg is also responsible for the famous collection of Indian relics and paintings found in the park museum, which gives us our best story of Black Hawk and his people.

The museum is but one of the three buildings making up the Watch Tower Inn. The other buildings consist of a dining room and kitchen, and a large lounge in whose basement is a recreation room. These are beautiful structures of stone and heavy timbers. Several large murals in the lounge augment the Indian motif. The dining room is open to the public the year around and has facilities for serving special parties.

**THIS IS YOUR PARK
PRESERVE ITS NATURAL BEAUTY**



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Wicki-up in Indian Museum.

FOR VISITORS

PICNICKING—There are Picnic areas with pure water, fireplaces with wood and picnic tables at designated areas. No cooking may be done except on park stoves.

WATCH TOWER INN DINING ROOM—Lunch and dinner are served here every day of the year at rates approved by the State. Special parties can be accommodated.

HAUBERG INDIAN MUSEUM—Open the year around, admission to this building is free. One of the best museums of its kind it tells a graphic picture of the Indians directly connected with this area.

THE POW WOW—Staged in the amphitheater this colorful affair is held annually over the Labor Day week-end beginning on Saturday night, and is given the afternoons and evenings of Sunday and Monday. A small admittance fee is charged.

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Shady areas for relaxation.

